

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. With this response, claims 1-4, 7-10, 13, 14, 17, and 18 were amended. New claim 21 was added. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Accordingly, claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 18 was objected to for being in improper dependent form. This objection is obviated by the amendment to claim 18.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 13-20 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 6,042,751 (Chan et al.). Applicants respectively traverse the rejection for the reasons set forth below. As amended, claim 13 recites:

13. A conductive polymer composition comprising:
- about 0.01% to about 5% by weight of a transition metal catalyst;
 - an electrically conductive material; and
 - a polymer binder blend comprising a first polymer mixture and a second polymer, wherein the first polymer mixture is a mixture of acrylic homopolymers having different glass transition temperatures and different molecular weights and the second polymer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic copolymers and acrylic terpolymers. (emphasis added)

These features may be found in applicants specification, for example, at page 15, lines 18-21 and example 3 at pages 41-44.

Chan et al. is relied upon as disclosing a thick film conductive composition containing 14-35% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer, namely, acrylic resins such a styrene-containing acrylic polymers at Col. 5, lines 13-31. Chan et al. does not disclose or suggest, however, a polymer binder blend as claimed by applicants. Moreover, Chan et al. does not disclose or suggest a mixture of acrylic homopolymers having different glass transition temperatures and different molecular weights in combination with a second polymer comprising acrylic copolymers and acrylic terpolymers. Accordingly, Chan et al. does not recite each and every

feature of applicant's claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejection of claim 13 as being anticipated by Chan et al. be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Because claims 14-20 depend on claim 13, either directly or indirectly, they are likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 13. Applicant's respectfully request therefore that the Section 102 rejection of claims 14-20 as anticipated by Chan et al. be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-20 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,627,058 (Chan). Applicants respectively traverse the rejection for the reasons set forth below. As amended, claim 1 recites:

1. A conductive polymer composition comprising:
about 0.01% to about 5% by weight of a transition metal catalyst;
an electrically conductive material; and
a polymer binder blend comprising a first polymer and a second polymer, wherein the first polymer and the second polymer are selected from the group consisting of: acrylic homopolymers, acrylic copolymers, and acrylic terpolymers, wherein the glass transition temperature of said first polymer is higher than the glass transition temperature of said second polymer, the first polymer, and the second polymer having different molecular weights. (emphasis added)

These features may be found in applicants specification, for example, at page 14, lines 8-32 and Examples 1 and 2.

Chan is relied upon as disclosing a thick film conductive polymer composition containing a thermoplastic polymer or mixtures thereof. The Office further relies upon Chan as disclosing styrene-containing acrylic copolymers at Col. 6, line 46 to col. 7, line 10. Chan does not disclose or suggest, however, a polymer binder blend comprising acrylic homopolymers, acrylic copolymers, or acrylic terpolymers as claimed. The Office readily concedes that Chan is silent regarding glass transition temperature difference as claimed. There is also no disclosure or suggestion of a mixture of acrylic homopolymers, copolymers or terpolymers in the citation relied on by the Office at Col. 6, line 46 to Col. 7, line 10. Moreover, all the Examples of polymers taught in (Examples 1-11) are of styrene-containing acrylic copolymers, but not a

mixture or a polymer binder blend having different glass transition temperatures and different molecular weights as claimed. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejection of claim 1 as being unpatentable over Chan be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Although not identical, independent claim 13 recites features similar to those of claim 1 and, thus, is likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Because claims 2-12 depend on claim 1, and claims 14-20 depend on claim 13, either directly or indirectly, they are likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 13. Applicants respectfully request therefore that the Section 103 rejection of claims 2-12 and 14-20 as being unpatentable over Chan be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

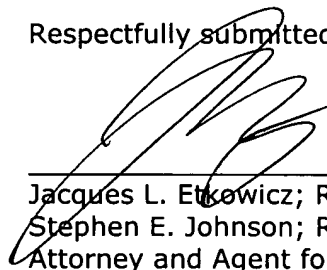
Claim 21 is a claim directed to polymer binders prepared from alkyl-containing acrylates, methacrylates and alkyl-containing acrylate/methacrylate derivatives. Support for such alkyl-containing polymers is found, for example, at page 22, line 1 to page 23, line 3 and Example 7 at pages 48-49. Chan et al. and Chan do not disclose or suggest alkyl acrylic copolymers or acrylic terpolymers. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 is patentable over Chan et al. and Chan and applicants request allowance of claim 21.

Appln. No.: 10/692,761
Amendment Dated June 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2006

ANMS-129US

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to phone applicant's attorney if it is believed that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite prosecution of the application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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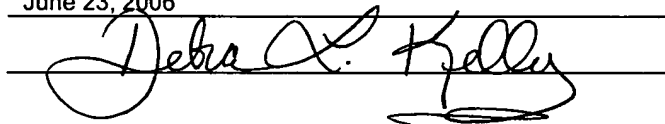
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